

State Asks Easements for Individuals

The Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Lands has urges individuals to identify easement needs across Native lands to guarantee access to non-Native lands.

In the February issue of Alaska Land Lines, a publication of the department, the easement process is outlined for interested land owners and users. The article stresses that an easement cannot be reserved solely for the use of an individual.

Written justification for the easement must be submitted to the appropriate district office of the Bureau of Land Management. The request includes identification and location of the easement, its purpose, what type it is, why it is needed, how long it has been in use, and the width needed.

The article states, "It is **IMPERATIVE** that miners, hunters, fishermen, homesteaders, and all private land owners and users who will be isolated or land locked by the village selections make immediate requests to the Bureau of Land Management for easements across Native lands. Every trail, road and other access now in use by hikers, backpackers and others should be covered by an easement request at once in order to cover current needs for current users."

It goes on to state, "If such requests are not made at this time, the trails may be closed to the public by the village organizations if they so choose."

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for examining the easement requests and making recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior. If approved by the Secretary, the easements will be reserved first in the interim conveyance of lands to the village, then the actual patent to the Native corporation.